

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05906 301504Z

53

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8371

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: MINISTER FOR AZORES INSTALLED

REFS: (A) LISBON 5845 (DTG 261727Z AUG 76), (B) LISBON 5878

(DTG 271519Z AUG 76)

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES SWORE IN GEN GALVAO DE FIGUEIREDO AS MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC FOR THE AZORES. EANES CALLED FOR REALISM AND A REJECTION OF ATTEMPTS TO TURN THE PEOPLE AGAINST THEIR ELECTED LEADERS. WITH THESE REMARKS AND A CALL ON PIRES VELOSO, EANES SOUGHT TO CALM THE POLITICAL-MILITARY ATMOSPHERE. END SUMMARY.

1. EANES INSTALLS FIGUEIREDO: PRESIDENT EANES AUG 28

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PAGE 02 LISBON 05906 301504Z

SWORE IN GEN GALVAO DE FIGUEIREDO AS MINISTER OF THE

REPUBLIC FOR THE AZORES IN A CEREMONY ATTENDED BY GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) MEMBERS, THE MILITARY COMMANDER-DESIGNATE OF THE AZORES BG FERREIRA DE LEMOS, AND THE LIKELY LEADER OF THE AZOREAN GOVERNMENT, MOTA AMARAL. FIGUEIREDO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD HAD VERY LITTLE CONTACT WITH THE AZORES, BUT INTENDED TO SERVE AS A LINK BETWEEN THE AZOREAN AND LISBON GOVERNMENTS.

EANES SAID:

-- REMEMBERING THE OVERTHROWN DICTATORSHIP AND THE DEFEATED THREATS OF TOTALITARIANISM, THE PORTUGUESE MUST FIND THE MOTIVATION AND FORCE TO OVERCOME STERILE SELFISHNESS AND TO DISPLAY THE REALISM INDISPENSABLE TO STABILIZATION.
-- THE PEOPLE MUST GUARD AGAINST MANIPULATIONS WHICH SEEK TO ALIENATE THEM FROM THE OFFICIALS THEY ELECTED AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS THEY CHOSE.
-- CHANGES IN THE AZORES MUST BE THE COLLECTIVE WORK OF THE PEOPLE AND ELECTED INSTITUTIONS OF THE REGION AND THE NATION.

2. EANES VISITS PIRES VELOSO: PRESIDENT EANES PAID AN UNEXPECTED CALL AUG 28 ON NORTHERN REGION COMMANDER PIRES VELOSO IN THE OPORTO MILITARY HOSPITAL. EANES WAS ACCOMPANIED BY COL GARCIA DOS SANTOS, WHO REPLACED PIRES VELOSO ON THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (REF A). EANES RETURNED TO LISBON IMMEDIATELY BUT ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO OPORTO SEPT 3. EANES AND PRIME MINISTER SOARES ARE SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO THE AZORES SEPT 4 FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. SOARES ON LOCAL ELECTIONS: IN AUGUST 29 "TELEPRESS" INTERVIEW, SOARES WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO BE IN BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. SOARES WAS MISQUOTED IN THE SAME INTERVIEW TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PS GOVERNMENT WOULD LEAVE OFFICE IF THE SOCIALISTS DID NOT EQUAL THEIR PERCENTAGE IN THE ASSEMBLY OF REPUBLIC ELECTIONS. THE PS CLARIFIED THIS BY SAYING THAT THE LOCAL ELECTIONS MIGHT HAVE ONLY REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE, AND THE PS WOULD BE ABLE TO DRAW THE PROPER CONCLUSIONS FROM THE ELECTION RESULTS.

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PAGE 03 LISBON 05906 301504Z

4. FONMIN TO GERMANY: FOREIGN MINISTER MEDEIROS FERREIRA WILL VISIT GERMANY SEPT 2 AND 3 AT THE INVITATION OF FONMIN GENSCHER.

5. COMMENT: EANES, BY HIS REMARKS AND HIS CALL ON PIRES VELOSO, HAS TAKEN ANOTHER STEP TO CALM THE POLITICAL-MILITARY ATMOSPHERE (REF B).

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